

\_DESIGN \_ARCHITECTURE \_INTERIORS \_CURIOSITY

# AZURE

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## 2018

THE VERY BEST IN ARCHITECTURE,  
LANDSCAPE, DESIGN, INTERIORS,  
CONCEPTS, ENVIRONMENTAL  
LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL GOOD

# AZ AWARDS



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Of the nearly 1,000 entrants in this year's AZ Awards, only a small fraction could stand in the winners' circle. These 44 projects made it to the shortlist, wowing with their innovation and relevance

**Architecture**  
Residential Single Family

**Project:** Mylla Hytte **Location:** Near Oslo, Norway  
**Firm:** Mork Ulnes Architects, Norway **Team:** Casper Mork-Ulnes with Auste Cljunelyte, Tom Erdman, Konrad Jasinski, Michal Manzak and Lexie Mork-Ulnes

By massing four volumes with shed roofs in a cross, this 84-square-metre, three-bedroom/ three-bathroom ski cabin in Norway, an hour north of Oslo, achieves the footprint and angles of a pinwheel. The unique design was Casper Mork-Ulnes's response to the municipality's unwavering insistence on a gabled roof. Inside, the pine-ply-wood-clad interior is as practical as it is lovely; it features custom furniture, ample storage and dramatic cathedral ceilings that show off the different facets of the structure's intersecting rooflines. The cabin's unconventional shape and position – atop a concrete slab on a grade – also creates sheltered morning and evening porches.



**Architecture**  
Residential Single Family

**Project:** Maison Wilson **Location:** Montreal, Canada  
**Firm:** la SHED architecture, Canada **Team:** Yannick Laurin, Renée Mailhot and Sébastien Parent with Olivier Bérard, Anthony Bergoin, Sébastien Dion, Samuel Guimond and Dahlia Marinier Doucet

Maison Wilson in Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood is signature la SHED architecture, a design-build firm known for deftly updating legacy housing stock by adding contemporary gestures while preserving homes' heritage elements for maximum authenticity. In this latest coup, a two-storey addition at the rear of a home exemplifies the firm's backyard-to-front-curb approach and contains a new kitchen, a master bedroom and additional square footage in the basement. In the 1916 structure, the architects enlarged the openings between main-floor spaces, uncased an antique wooden stairway (and featured it in the most spectacular fashion) and restored the formal dining room's large double doors and extensive panelling to mint condition.



## Architecture Commercial/Institutional Over 1,000 Square Metres

**Project:** The Walled: Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat  
**Location:** Yangzhou, China **Firm:** Neri&Hu Design and Research Office, China **Team:** Rossana Hu and Lyndon Neri with Bin Zhu, Valentina Brunetti, Nicolas Fardet, Fong Huang, Callum Holgate, Jin Zhang, Leyue Chen, Sela Lim, Federico Saralvo, Sean Shen, Xin Liu, Yun Wang, Zhao Lei and Ziyi Cao

Shanghai-based Neri&Hu Design and Research Office conceived this 4,200-square-metre, 20-room boutique hotel, restaurant and cultural-event space in the Hanjiang District of Yangzhou



using the local vernacular of a courtyard residence. The architects connected a patchwork of new and existing structures via a dramatic grid of slightly-below-grade passageways that incorporate varying open-brickwork motifs and skylights. Enconced behind a high perimeter wall, the compound enforces a sense of layered privacy for hotel guests, who must navigate the corridors that open onto various gardens and water features before arriving at their secluded suites. Furthest in is the Artist Guest Room.

## Architecture Commercial/Institutional Over 1,000 Square Metres

**Project:** Refugio para Mujeres Víctimas de Violencia  
**Location:** Uruapan, Mexico **Firm:** Origen 19° 41' 53" N, Mexico **Team:** Hugo González Pérez and Omar González Pérez with Alfonso Alcantar, Alejandro Álvarez Segundo, Marco Antonio Calles, Mariana Cruz Zapata, Omar Jiménez Trigueros, Laboratorio Binarlo de Arquitectura, Fernando Mora Serrano, Miguel Negrete Padilla, Leonardo Ochoa Ruiz, Hugo Saev and Luis Villa Alfaro

Morelia in Mexico's Michoacán State is both a colonial city of exceptional architectural value and the capital of a domestic narco state. Within this context, a local firm recently completed a much-needed community resource: a women's shelter for victims of violence. The temporary-housing facility can accommodate up to 36 women in a communal-living setting that includes a medical



clinic and consulting rooms for talk therapy. The architects defined the shelter's different functional spaces by plotting the central circulation in three triangular waves that zigzag across the rectangular compound's 3,978 square metres. The geometry, colours and scale of the shelter recall the visual vocabulary of Ricardo Legorreta.

## Architecture Commercial/Institutional Over 1,000 Square Metres

**Project:** Poly International Plaza **Location:** Beijing, China **Firm:** Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, USA **Team:** Gene Schnair, Leo Chow, Mark Sarkisian, Keith Boswell and Larry Chien with Brian Cook, Rupa Garai, Neville Mathias, Brian Carl Mulder and Angela Wu

Located about 15 kilometres outside of Beijing's core, this first landmark tower for a new central business district recalls a Chinese paper lantern. Its diagrid, faceted facade is both exoskeleton and the building's primary structure. Two layers of windows address air quality and temperature



extremes. At each end of the building's footprint, the floor plates and inner layer of glazing stop short of going full-ellipse to create two 29-storey atriums. The voids provide expansive views and visual communication between floors. They're occasionally interrupted by various instances of flair: suspended conference rooms here, a multi-floor spiral staircase there and an open-air courtyard at the top.